

Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #28
October 10, 2006

WORLDWIDE UPDATE.

- This week the World Health Organization added one confirmed human case of H5N1 influenza to their cumulative case count, bringing the total to 252 cases and 148 deaths (58.3%). The one case added this week was a 21 year old female from Indonesia who became ill September 19. She is the sister of a confirmed H5N1 case, an 11 year old male, who died on 18 September. The source of her infection is under investigation; she was likely exposed to poultry that died in the family's household as well as to her brother.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- Planning continues for the Statewide PanFlu Exercise “FLUEX ‘06” scheduled to be conducted on October 23-24.
- Noted author / lecturer, Dr. Vince Covello gave Public Health Risk Communication Presentation at VDH. The talk was broadcast throughout the Agency via Polycom video teleconference. Dr. Covello gave a second lecture at UVA on the same topic.
- The Virginia Association of School Superintendents will be sponsoring a “Preparing for Pandemic” Conference for Superintendents, School Board Members, School / Division Staff and Community Health Personnel in Charlottesville on Nov 8. Visit: <http://vass.edschool.virginia.edu/homepages/calendar.htm>
- VDH State Emergency Planning Coordinator will give a presentation on Continuity of Operations Planning in a Pandemic at the Virginia Municipal League Annual Conference.
- Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Preparedness and Response and VDH State Emergency Planning Coordinator have been invited to give a PanFlu Planning Presentation at the Virginia Association of Counties’ Annual Conference.
- VDH State Emergency Planning Coordinator is meeting with State Council of Higher Education in Virginia representatives to discuss PanFlu Planning for Colleges and Universities.
- VDH State Emergency Planning Coordinator is coordinating with VDEM, Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) and Virginia Municipal League (VML) representatives to develop an agenda for a pandemic flu workshop on December 1 for local officials.
- 12 local and regional PanFlu Summits have been conducted. Upcoming Summit is scheduled in the Near SW Region on October 31, postponed from August 22.
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Reports

- **Alexandria**
 - Health Director spoke to Public Health graduate level course about pandemic planning.
 - Spoke and displayed pandemic display at City's *Be Ready Alexandria* open-air weekend forum.
 - Released new pandemic brochure and signs.
 - Released new *Are You Ready?* brochures in Spanish and English.
 - Created GIS maps identifying potential distribution sites within 1 mile walking distance of everyone in City.
 - Presented interim City pandemic plan to Mayor's working group as forerunner to presentation to City Council.
 - Trained 12 Medical Reserve Corps members to train community organization leaders who will in turn make pandemic presentations to their own organizations.
- **Arlington**
 - The following was sent to over 400 Arlington physicians with the quarterly "Disease Dispatch" , including pandemic flu reminders:
 - Medical Offices and Clinics Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist (HHS).
 - CDC poster for patients to Cover Cough and Clean Hands for posting in medical offices
 - Tips for Communicable Disease Reporting for medical offices
 - VA Reportable Disease List
 - Tips for Public Health Reporting and HIPAA
 - Tips to include in the office Emergency Plan
- **Central Shenandoah**
 - Planner and Epidemiologist met with Rockingham County and Vendor (Base-X) representatives to discuss location of drive-thru tent system for FLUEX '06.
 - Planner met with Highland County School Superintendent and other Officials to discuss Pandemic Flu and other public health issues and needs.
 - Director, Epidemiologist and Planner attended *Pandemic: Ethics, Law and the Public's Health* presentation at Washington & Lee University. The speaker was Lawrence O. Gostin, JD,LLD of Johns Hopkins and Georgetown Universities.
- **Central Virginia**
 - Planning group met to continue developing plans for the October 28 vaccine dispensing drill as part of FLUEX, ml. '06.
 - Planner met with Lynchburg public safety/police to coordinate activities for October 28 drill.
 - Planner met with large, 2-campus private K-12 school to assist with PanFlu response plans.
 - Staff participated in health fair at local Frito Lay plant, and included PanFlu and personal preparedness information
 - PIOs from local jurisdictions met at LHD to participate in the risk communication Polycom with Vince Covello.
 - PHN staff has taken their hand washing show on the road to local elementary schools.
- **Chesapeake**
 - Developing District EP&R Web page with Pandemic Influenza site.

- Briefed CHD supervisors regarding Exercise FLUEX '06 and made primary and alternate ECC assignments for Oct 23-24
- Planner met with City Emergency Management officials to craft City EOC Scenario Inputs for FLUEX '06.
- Director led PanFlu discussion at a school health advisory committee meeting. It was not planned, but the discussion spawned as a result of wearing her VDH PanFlu Summit t-shirt advertising precautions.
- **Chickahominy**
 - Continued the coordination for the Goochland Schools hand cleanliness program.
 - PanFlu Coordinator is now on board and her orientation process has started.
 - Participated in the VDH Risk Communications Polycom.
 - Met with Goochland Schools and Fire/EMS on Pandemic Flu Planning.
- **Crater**
 - The Crater Health District facilitated the first District Pandemic Flu Coordinating Committee. Membership includes local government officials, local Emergency Managers, Mental Health, Hospitals, Fort Lee, and the National Parks Service. The discussion included planning issues, staff training, hospital surge planning and local planning efforts. The purpose of the committee is to provide a forum for local PanFlu team members to meet and discuss best practices, working across jurisdictional lines in a crisis, and generally how each locality will remain operational while providing the best information and care to its citizens during a pandemic. As requested, the Health Department will provide PanFlu presentations and information to the staff of each of the localities.
- **Cumberland Plateau**
 - Planner met with local town law enforcement to discuss pandemic influenza activities, the upcoming statewide pandemic influenza exercise (FLUEX '06), and a future local pandemic flu planning meeting.
 - Planner met with local county sheriff's office to discuss pandemic flu activities and plans for the FLUEX '06 exercise.
 - Planner met with local county Emergency Services Coordinator to discuss pandemic flu activities, FLUEX '06, and a future local pandemic flu planning meeting.
 - Planner distributed 151 invitations to partners in community health and emergency response organizations to participate in FLUEX '06.
 - Planner met with local transportation provider to discuss special needs emergency evacuations, pandemic flu activities, and planning efforts for the FLUEX '06 exercise.
- **Eastern Shore**
 - Attended and provided PanFlu educational materials at two health fairs in English and Spanish - Perdue (600 persons) and Kuzzens (150 persons).
 - Preparing for tabletop exercise on October 26th with PanFlu scenario to be attended by ES agency heads.
 - Attended Delmarva Avian Influenza Task Force meeting in Worcester County, Maryland
- **Fairfax**
 - Pandemic influenza training update for HD employees at Mt. Vernon office.
 - HD COOP planning meeting for essential services during pandemic.
 - Presented Pandemic Influenza presentation for 30 senior learners through the *Adventures in Learning* Series.

- Pandemic influenza training update for HD Adult Day Health Coordinators at Health Administration Building.
- **Henrico**
 - Henrico Health District continued to coordinate with Henrico County agencies on planning for November 4th Mass Vaccination Exercise.
 - Epidemiologist sent weekly Avian Flu update to healthcare partners in the community.
 - Director provided an interview to Channel 6 News regarding Influenza Vaccine.
 - Planner staffed the VDH table at the State Fair.
 - Planner manned a booth at a local Safety and Health Fair at Home Depot and provided information about Pandemic Flu preparedness to community members.
- **Lord Fairfax (Winchester Area)**
 - Commenced walk-in influenza immunizations in 3 of the 6 localities and will begin in the other 3 with the next shipment of vaccine.
 - Director met with City of Winchester staff to review a pandemic influenza pamphlet the City is putting together.
 - Director and Planner met with Shenandoah County Administrator and Emergency Management Staff to discuss State and District PanFlu plans and upcoming exercises.
 - Planner met with Shenandoah County Extension Office representatives to discuss upcoming community disaster forum in Woodstock (all-hazards).
 - Planner met with Risk Manager for the Town of Woodstock to discuss PanFlu presentation for town department heads.
 - Nurse Supervisor presented on Pandemic Influenza to the Rotary Club of Linden (Warren County) this week
 - Planner conducted and District Epidemiologist and District Response Team participated in Operation Pony Express which hand delivered PanFlu preparedness surveys to 404 physicians in the District. The objective of the exercise was to test the time it took to disseminate information in a communications failure scenario.
- **Loudoun**
 - Loudoun and Prince William Health Districts will be conducting a mass vaccination exercise on Saturday October 21 at Heritage High School in Leesburg, Virginia to test and improve our jurisdictions' POD plans. Over 300 people from various local, state and private agencies will be staffing our Staging Site and POD in order to serve an expected 1,000+ clients.
- **Norfolk**
 - The District Health Director coordinated with the Norfolk Department of Human Services Management Team on Pandemic Influenza Planning, including considerations of continuity of operations for diverse responsibilities in client services for benefits, group homes and juvenile detention, protective services, and child care issues.
 - The Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Response System, which includes 9 health districts, 18 civilian and other military hospitals, as well as other health organizations, discussed communications systems to be used in the region during acute and pandemic events.
- **Pittsylvania-Danville**
 - Pandemic Influenza Educator and Epidemiologist presented Pandemic Flu information to local Daycare and Homecare workers. Approximately 20 organizations were represented.

- Pandemic Influenza Educator presented Pandemic Flu information to the United Way Vision Council.
- Epidemiologist presented Pandemic Flu information to approximately 75 students and a few staff of The Piedmont Governor's School for Mathematics, Science and Technology.
- Epidemiologist searched for local families who have school aged children and have prepared or are preparing for Pandemic Influenza. This was at the request of the U.S. Department of Education so that the family may be interviewed and appear on "Ed News," a television show the DOE produces.
- **Rappahannock-Rapidan**
 - Finalized plans for mass vaccination clinic during upcoming FluEx '06.
 - Educational presentation on Pandemic Flu to health district nurses
 - Planning for FluEx '06 with Fauquier and Culpeper hospitals
 - Delivered 50 voice-over powerpoint CDs to two hospitals.
 - Held class on Isolation and Quarantine for county attorneys.
 - Attended 3 health fairs and distributed materials on pandemic flu and personal preparedness.
 - Held class on Isolation and Quarantine for RRMRC volunteers.
 - Continued working on surge planning with local planning group.
 - Planner worked with a large local nursing home on their pandemic flu plan and an upcoming tabletop drill.
 - Conducted training session for RRMRC volunteer registrars in preparation for the October exercise.
 - Sent letters to all school administrators regarding our public awareness campaign. Received most of the educational material for the campaign and began assembling packets.
 - Provided updates to the Fauquier county school advisory committee on pandemic flu preparedness.
- **Roanoke City / Alleghany**
 - Health Educator met with Roanoke City School system and Salem school system regarding all hazards and PanFlu planning;
 - Health Educator met with local Spanish-speaking columnist for Roanoke Times about a Spanish Language article on PanFlu planning.
 - Health Educator presented on PanFlu and all-hazards planning at Valley Bank in Roanoke.
- **Southside**
 - Director, Epidemiologist and Planner met with District Executive Planning Committee and discussed upcoming PanFlu drill, shelter issues and many other issues relating to a Pandemic Influenza.
 - Director and Epidemiologist met with County Administrators, City and Town Managers in the Lenowisco Health District and discuss Pandemic Flu Planning for local government entities. The Pandemic Flu presentation initiated a lot of discussion and collaboration in planning issues.
 - Planner met with County Emergency Services Personnel and VDEM Representative to discuss local preparedness issues to include communications issues, special needs or medically fragile sheltering, etc.
 - Epidemiologist participated in Risk Communication Training conducted by VDH.

- **Thomas Jefferson (Charlottesville Area)**
 - PanFlu plan coordinator developed a “How businesses can prepare for PanFlu” article for Chamber of Commerce newsletter.
 - Director and Planner attended city police officers’ staff training day where health director presented PanFlu overview and conducted question and answer period and planner distributed educational materials and information on October exercise.
 - Continued meetings to further develop PanFlu drive through exercise to be held Oct. 26th in conjunction with FLUEX ’06.